

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting a perilymph fistula, which comprises detecting the existence of a p63 isoform of Cochlin, an N-terminal fragment of a p63 isoform of Cochlin, or a 16 kDa N-terminal fragment of Cochlin in body fluid existing in the middle ear, ~~and using the detected existence of Cochlin as an indicator of a perilymph fistula, wherein the~~ with an antibody which recognizes an antigenic determinant contained in amino acids 36 to 127 of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1; and

using the detected existence of the p63 isoform of Cochlin, the N-terminal fragment of a p63 isoform of Cochlin, or the 16 kDa N-terminal fragment of Cochlin as an indicator of a perilymph fistula ~~detection of the existence of Cochlin is carried out by detecting the existence of a protein consisting of:~~

an N-terminal fragment of a p63 isoform of Cochlin, or

a 16kDa N-terminal fragment of Cochlin recognized by an anti-Cochlin-N-terminal-fragment antibody.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, which comprises detecting the existence of a p63 isoform of Cochlin, an N-terminal fragment of a p63 isoform of Cochlin, or a 16 kDa N-terminal fragment of Cochlin in body fluid existing in the middle ear of a patient likely to have a perilymph fistula, ~~and using the detected existence of Cochlin as an indicator of a perilymph fistula.~~

3. – 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1[[4]], wherein the ~~immunological method is carried out by using an anti-Cochlin N-terminal fragment antibody~~

~~characterized in that it~~ recognizes an antigenic determinant contained in a polypeptide having  
consisting of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, 5, 6, or 7 ~~of the sequence listing.~~

8. – 13. (Cancelled)